Preparation of xylylenediamine

Abstract

A process for preparing xylylenediamine, comprising the steps of ammoxidizing xylene to phthalonitrile, by contacting the vaporous product of the ammoxidation stage directly with a liquid organic solvent (quench), and hydrogenating the phthalonitrile in the resulting quench solution or suspension, wherein the organic solvent is N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP).